'Let Justice Be Done'

Dachau Horror Spurs DA

NEW ORLEANS — (AP) — Toward the end of World War II, Jim Garrison, along with many other soldiers, burst upon hideous places in Germany where men, women and children were destroyed systematically.

He saw first the gaping mouth of an emaciated man. The eyes were lost in the deep sockets of this human who hours or days before had been a living skeleton.

The man had escaped the gas chamber, but not the SS machine gunner.

This was Dachau.

INDIFFERENCE

That memory never has left Garrison, who says it is perhaps the one event that has most changed his life.

To him, the Nazi slaughter of 6 million humans was the end product of man's indifference to man, of a society which said that it did not pay to get involved in other people's troubles.

More than 20 years later, Garrison — district attorney of Orleans Parish (county) — assaults what he considers America's indifference to the greatest tragedy in a century: The assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

"The full story is not known," he says.

"And yet there are people who say, 'It's all over, it happened three years ago, forget it.'

"They say, 'Don't rock the boat.' They want to maintain the status quo, to leave things as they are.

WON'T FORGET

"We do not know the whole truth behind the assassination. I do not believe it is beyond discovery. I am not willing to forget it."

Who is this man who seems to be playing into the hands of critics attacking the Warren Commission findings? Isn't he recklessly contributing to the disturbing controversy started by people like Mark Lane and Edward Eptein and a host of others?

He thinks the critics have been a great service to the nation because they've caused people to question what happened in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

"If there is one phrase which expresses what I think, my philosophy, if you want to call it that, it is: 'Let justice be done though the heavens fall.'"

PACKS A GUN

It is this sort of literary observation strangers hardly expect from a 45 year old father of five who physically seems like a cartoonist's version of a middle-aged former football player.

He is 6 foot 6. And although his 220 pounds is hardly beefy, his penchant for wearing a vest makes him appear heavier.

The fact he keeps a revolver strapped to his belt makes it easy to refer to him as a gun-toting law man.

But even his detractors say Garrison is nobody's dummy.